

NUMISMATIC SUPPLEMENT.

[With Plates I and II.]

This supplement has been started primarily in the hope that coin collectors in India may find it convenient to chronicle in its pages notices of unpublished or rare coins which they may obtain from time to time.

It is also meant to include notes on other subjects of antiquarian and philological interest which by themselves might not afford sufficient material for a paper in the main body of the Journal.

It is a matter of common experience that casual finds by private persons of highly interesting coins are not made public with the freedom that is desirable. Almost all private cabinets contain specimens which their owners have not had any inclination or inducement to publish in any recognised journal.

Public cabinets are also not entirely free from reproach in this matter. Supplements to printed catalogues are brought out at inconveniently long intervals and new acquisitions of interest may thus remain unknown for years except to casual visitors.

The search for Indian coins since the days of Prinsep and Thomas has continued to be keen. The enthusiasm of General Cunningham and Mr. C. J. Rodgers in this direction has made itself widely felt, and the result is that every year brings to light numbers of coins previously unknown to numismatists. This is particularly noticeable in the case of the period covered by the later Muhammadan Sultāns of Dehli whose coins were struck not only at the capital but at many of the more prominent towns in their territories. The list of these towns which is a matter of historical and possibly geographical interest is being yearly added to in consequence of private research.

Similarly for progress in the study of ancient Indian history the publication of finds of new coins is all-important.

It is in the help that such notices afford to those engaged on the larger work of tabulating the numismatic records of specific periods





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and dynasties that this supplement should be found useful, if coin collectors and those interested in philological and antiquarian matters will but commit their observations to writing, to use the words of Sir William Jones, and send them to the Asiatic Society in Calcutta.

MEDIÆVAL COINS.

1. *Samudra Gupta*.—A new variety of the Battle-axe type. Pl. I. 1.

Obverse.—King, standing, leaning on battle-axe and facing left; attendant in left field supporting a standard tipped with a crescent.

Between attendant and king the word

𑀘
𑀓𑀭

Between king and battle-axe the words.

𑀓
𑀘

(*Note*.—The final “ra” and “ta” of “Samudra” and “Gupta” are absent owing to want of space on the coin).

Legend.—To right of battle-axe 𑀘 𑀓 𑀭 kṛtānta.

To left of attend an 𑀘 𑀓 𑀭 𑀓 𑀭 𑀓 𑀭 tyājitarāja jitajata

Reverse.—Goddess on throne facing front with feet on a single lotus flower in full bloom.

In right hand a fillet, in left hand a lotus flower.

Monogram. . 𑀘 .

Legend. 𑀘 𑀓 𑀭 𑀘 𑀓 𑀭 kṛtānta-paraśu i.e. the battle-axe of Kṛtānta. *Weight*: 118 grs.

The novel features in this coin, which was obtained in Lucknow, are (1) the fuller legend on the obverse, (2) the position of the king's name, (3) the lotus flower on the reverse in the goddess's left hand and at her feet.

H. N. WRIGHT, C.S.

2. In our proceedings for 1881, at page 39, a gold coin belonging to the late Mr. R. Nicholson is described. The inscription was read “Śrī Dhairyarājā” by Dr. Hoernle. The coin is now in my possession, and it seems to me certain that the inscription should be read श्री विघरह or Śrī Vigharaha. The style of the letters would connect it with the same period as the very common silver coins, of the Indo-Sassanian type, which bear the same name, though the devices (obverse, bull Nandi, and lingam; reverse, cow suckling calf) are purely Indian. Pl. I. 2.

R. BURN, C.S.

SULTĀNS OF DEHLI.

3. *Ghiyās-ud-dīn Balban*; a new mint. Pl. I. 3. 4.

Towards the close of 1902 a rupee of Ghiyās-ud-dīn Balban was brought to me, similar in type to the coin illustrated by Thomas (Chronicles of the Pathān Kings of Dehli, Pl. II. 42), but differing in its marginal legend. Unfortunately the latter is not perfect. A portion of it is, however, sufficiently preserved to enable the place of mintage to be deciphered with clearness. The legend on the reverse runs

ضربت هذا بخرطه سلطانة پور تسع و سبعين وستماية
[Struck in the district of Sultānpūr.....in the year 679 A. H.]

On the obverse, too little of the margin is left to be of any further help. The coin weighs 165 grs.

Twelve months later I came across a confirmation of the above reading on a small copper coin of the same king of the type given by Thomas on p. 135 of his Chronicles No. 115, Plate II, Fig. 45. This little coin on the reverse has instead of بخرطه دهلي the words

بسلطان پور

The coin weighs 31 grs.

To which Sultānpūr this coin should be assigned I am unable to say. It cannot be the Sultānpūr (Warangal) of the coins of Muhammad bin Tughlak, as Warangal was not named till late in the reign of Ghiyās-ud-dīn Tughlak. There was a Sultānpūr within a short distance of old Dehli, but it is unlikely that there should have been two mints in such close proximity.

It is more probable that the "Khīṭa Sultānpūr" of Balban was in or near the province of Bengal which was the scene of the principal expedition of that monarch's reign. H. N. WRIGHT, C.S.

MUGHAL EMPERORS OF HINDUSTĀN.

4. *Jahāngīr*..—A new zodiacal mohar. Pl. I. 5.

Obverse.—Ram (Aries) to right looking backward over shoulder within rayed circle.

Reverse.—Within dotted circle.

نگیر شاه
اردوی جہا
سکہ
بادروان تاکہ بود
۲۲
و ماہ ۱۰۳۶

The legend forms the following couplet:—

Bād rawān tā ki buwad mihr o Māh
Sikka-i-urdū-i-Jahāngīr Shāh

[May the coin of the camp of Jahāngīr Shāh remain current as long as the sun and moon exist.]

This interesting coin which was found by me in Dehli in October 1902, stands by itself in almost every particular. The most recent publication on the zodiacal coins of Jahāngīr is Monsieur Drouin's article in the "Revue Numismatique" in 1902 (p. 259), in which are described the zodiacal coins in the French "Cabinet des Medailles." The British Museum Catalogue contains an account of the 43 gold specimens in that Museum and Mr. J. S. Gibbs had a valuable paper entitled "Notes on the zodiacal Rupees and Mohars of Jahāngīr" in the Journal of the Bombay Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, 1878. These are the most important publications of recent date bearing on the subject, and in none of them is any reference made to a coin resembling the one now described.

Hitherto the only names of mints noticed on the zodiacal coins of Jahāngīr have been—

On gold coins: Agra, Lāhore,¹ Ajmir,² Aḥmadābād,³ Fathpūr Sikrī.⁴

On silver coins: Aḥmadābād, Agra (from gold die), Kashmīr, Fathpūr Sikrī.⁵

The present coin must have been struck in the camp (Urdū) of Jahāngīr, and is so far the only coin known to have been so struck by that king. Coins struck by Akbar in his "Urdū" or "Urdū-i-Zafarqarīn" are met with. The sign of the Ram shews that my coin was struck in the first month (Farwardīn), possibly on the *Nauroz*, of Jahāngīr's 22nd year, corresponding to the seventh month (Rajab) of 1036 A. H. or March 1627 A. D. Where Jahāngīr actually was at that time I have not been able to ascertain with any exactitude. In the sixth month of his 21st year he left Kābul for Hindustān (Elliot and Dowson, Vol. VI, p. 429). He went to Lāhore (*idem* p. 431), and in his 22nd year appears to have gone to Kashmīr (*idem* p. 435). He died 8 months later (28 Safar 1037 A.H.) on his way back to Lāhore. Probably he was on his way from Lāhore to Kashmīr when the present coin was issued.

Further, no other zodiacal coin is known of so late date. The latest specimen in the British Museum is dated 1033. M. Drouin,

¹ M. Drouin describes and figures a Sagittarius struck at Lahore in the name of Nūrjahān.

² Gibbs A.S.B. Prog. 1883.

³ B.M.C. No. 357 and Drouin (p. 9 of paper).

⁴ See Gibbs, J.A.S. Bom: 1878; the coins belonged to Col. Guthrie.

⁵ White King and Vost, Num. Chron: 1896, Vol XVI, p. 155.

though on p. 11 of his article he remarks that the period of zodiacal coins extends from 1019 to 1036, states on p. 15 of the same paper "les années de frappe vont donc de 1019 à 1035 pour le monnayage d'argent alors qu'elles oscillent entre 1025 et 1034 pour les mohrs." A rupee (Taurus) struck at Agra in 1035, which is in the Cabinet des Médailles, bears the latest date given by him. Mr. Gibbs remarked: "The latest date among my own gold is Cancer 1034-20, and among the silver 1027-13 * * * Marsden gives 1034-19 as the latest gold with the exception of the rare Sagittarius at Paris which has Nūrjahān Begam's name on the reverse and which is 1035-20."

The engraving both of the obverse and reverse dies is particularly fine, and I believe that no other zodiacal mohar is known with the figure of the Ram to the right. The reverse legend adds a new couplet to those hitherto recorded on the coins of Jahāngir. The coin weighs 168 grs.

5. *On the date of the Salīmī Coins.* Pl. I. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10.

It is well-known that a series of coins issued from the Aḥmadābād mint in the name of Sulṭān Salīm Shāh, son of Akbar Shāh. Now this Salīm on mounting the imperial throne assumed the name of Jahāngīr¹ and accordingly it is not strange that the Salīmī silver rupees and copper tānkīs have generally been assigned to some period prior to his accession. The British Museum Catalogue, for instance, attributes them to Jahāngīr as Governor of Gujarāt. Unfortunately for this hypothesis, however, the prince Salīm never was Governor of Gujarāt. Below is the list of all the viceroys appointed by the Emperor Akbar from the date of his subjugation of the province in A.D. 1573 until the accession of Jahāngīr in A.D. 1605.

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----------------|
| 1. Mirzā 'Azīz Koka | ... | ... | A.D. 1573-1575. |
| 2. Mirzā 'Abd al Raḥīm <u>Khān</u> | ... | ... | 1575-1577. |
| 3. <u>Shihāb</u> al dīn Aḥmad <u>Khān</u> | ... | ... | 1577-1583. |

¹ Jahāngīr, the eldest son of the Emperor Akbar the Great, "was named "Mirzā Salīm on account of his coming into the world, as supposed, by the prayers "of Shaikh Salīm Cishtī, a venerable Shaikh and dervish who resided in the village "of Sikri, now called Fatehpūr Sīkrī, in the province of Agra." Beale: Oriental Biographical Dictionary (1894), page 191. My friend, Mr. J. J. Ghose, M.A., of Ahmadābad, has kindly supplied me the following extract from the Tūzak-i-Jahāngīrī: "After my birth I was named Sulṭān Salīm. But I never heard the blessed "lips of my father address me either seriously or in jest as Muḥammad Salīm or "Sulṭān Salīm. He always called me Shekho Bābā When I became King it "came into my mind that I should change my name (Salīm) because of its resem- "blance to the names of the Qaiṣars of Turkey. The Heavenly Inspirer put into "my heart that, as the work of Kings is to conquer the world, I should call myself "Jahāngīr."

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|----|---------------------------------------------|-----|-----|------------|
| 4. | I'timād <u>Khān</u> Gujarāti | ... | ... | 1583-1584. |
| 5. | Mirzā 'Abd al Raḥīm <u>Khān</u> (2nd time). | ... | ... | 1584-1587. |
| 6. | Ismā'il Qulī <u>Khān</u> | ... | ... | 1587. |
| 7. | Mirzā 'Azīz Koka (2nd time) | ... | ... | 1588-1592. |
| 8. | Sultān Murād <u>Bakhsh</u> | ... | ... | 1592-1600. |
| 9. | Mirzā 'Azīz Koka (3rd time) | ... | ... | 1600-1606. |

Not only is Salīm's name absent from this list, but, inasmuch as in all the thirty-two years the viceroyalty was never vacant, no loophole even remains for the conjecture that Salīm may at some time have held the Office of Governor.

It is true that towards the end of Akbar's reign Salīm rose in rebellion, but the disaffection was shortlived¹ and apparently was confined to the Allahābād District. No trace of it seems to have reached the distant Aḥmadābād.

If then Salīm's coins were not struck by him either as Viceroy or as rebel, we are evidently shut up to the conclusion that they were issued by his orders as Emperor. And if this be the case, we may safely affirm that they must have been struck in the very earliest part of his reign—before his newly adopted name Jahāngīr had quite come into vogue. On this point the evidence of the coins themselves is instructive. They bear no Hijrī year, but, as generally read, they have alongside of the name of the month of issue either the year 2 or the year 5. Not a single Salīmī coin is known of the year 1 or 3 or 4, and none of any year later than 5. How to account for the strange lacuna was long a puzzle. The first clue to a solution was given by Mr. Nelson Wright who noticed that the coins supposed to read the year 5 do, as a matter of fact, read 50. The Persian figure 5 is here written as a small circle, and accordingly the following digit, zero, is represented merely by a dot. On several badly struck specimens the 5 appears clear enough, but in the process of coining the 0, which came nearer the edge of the die, has simply missed the flan altogether. On other specimens again the dot has been quite worn away. My own collection, however, contains five of these Salīmī rupees with the 50 written distinctly as O. With this clue in our hand the tangle all unravels. And in this way:—

Clearly the 50 represents the 50th (or last) solar year of Akbar's reign, his Ilāhī 50, and the 2 the next succeeding solar year. In the earlier months of the Ilāhī 50 Akbar was still on the throne, and the coins of these months bore his name. In the first week of the 8th

¹ Referring to Salīm's rebellion Manouchi writes: "He repaired the disobedience of a few months by a sincere application ever after to all the offices of a dutiful son." Catrou's Manouchi (English Translation, 1709), page 134.

month of that year—on the 6th day of *Ābān*—*Salīm* mounted the throne. Forthwith in that same month of *Ābān* coins were struck at the *Aḥmadābād* mint in the name of *Salīm*, but bearing still as their date the year 50. Each succeeding month of that year *Salīm*'s coins issued from *Aḥmadābād*, these coins showing the name of the month of issue and the year 50. When the new solar year began the same type of coin was struck, but with the date *Farwardīn* 2, and during the first four months of this year 2 that issue continued with the mere change consequent upon the change of month. In the fifth month *Salīm* (or, as he was now called, *Jahāngīr*) introduced his new type of coin—the well known “heavy rupees”¹—with their entirely new legend. Besides substituting his imperial name *Jahāngīr* for his birth-name *Salīm*, he also so far at least as the *Aḥmadābād* coins are concerned, dropped the year 2 from these coins, and now for the first time admitted the year 1. As yet only one New Year's Day (of the solar year) had occurred in his reign, and he now elected to count from that day his *Ilāhī* year 1.²

Thereafter most of his coins bore both the date of the *Hijrī* (lunar) year and also the number of the regnal (solar) year—thus 1015-1, 1015-2, 1016-2, 1016-3, 1017-3, &c &c.

In order to indicate the precise period to which the coins struck for *Salīm* at *Aḥmadābād* should, in my opinion, be assigned, I have drawn up the following Table of Synchronisms of the Arabic and Persian months for the three years beginning 10th March, O.S., 1605. In the *Wāqī'āt-i-Jahāngīrī* it is definitely stated that the third solar year of *Jahāngīr*'s reign opened on a “Thursday, the 2nd of *Zu'l hijja*, corresponding with the 1st of *Farwardīn*.” *Dowson-Elliot*: VI. 316. With this as starting-point the construction of a Table of monthly synchronisms for the three preceding years presents no difficulty. It is only necessary to bear in mind—

(a) that in the *Hijrī* year months of 30 and 29 days alternate, one day being added to the last (short) month of any intercalary year ;

(b) and that in the Persian year each month is of 30 days, but that 5 days—the *gāthās*—are always added to the end of the last month.

¹ The *Ilāhī* rupees of *Akbar* and *Salīm*'s rupees invariably weigh each just a few grains under 180, but *Jahāngīr*'s heavy rupees rose at a bound to 215, and three years later to 222 grains.

² “*Jahāngīr* counts the years of his reign by the solar reckoning, and the first “year of his reign as commencing on the New Year's Day next after his accession, “with the entrance of the Sun into Aries, which corresponded with the 11th *Zu'l* “*qa'da*, 1014 A.H. (10th March, 1606 A.D.)” *Dowson-Elliot*, *History of India*, VI. 290, note 2.